

Utility Sounding Board Conference Call Summary

July 9, 2008

USB members in attendance:

- Theresa Lackey-*Midstate Electric Co-op*
- Darroll Clark-*Franklin Co. PUD*
- Larry Blaufus-*Clark Public Utilities*
- Dawn Senger-*Richland Energy Services*
- Wes Thomas -*McMinnville Water & Light*
- Doris Abravanel-*Snohomish Co. PUD*
- Robert Kajfasz-*City of Port Angeles*
- Randy Thorn-*Idaho Power Company on phone*
- Dan Villalobos-*Inland Power and Light*

BPA staff in attendance for various discussions:

Karen Meadows	Carrie Nelson	Josh Warner
Mira Vowles	Tom Hannon	Becky Clark
Pam Sporborg	Grant Vincent	

2009 Utility Energy Efficiency Workshop

Becky Clark

USB/BPA Discussion Topics:

- Location: Lloyd Center Double Tree, first floor (across from BPA headquarters, right off the MAX redline train)
- Date: March 17 and 18, 2009
- Potential Speakers: request suggestions from USB
 - KC Golden-Climate Solutions
 - NEET taskforce representative
 - Tom Eckman
- Topics: request suggestions from USB
 - Photovoltaic technology
 - New discoveries in energy efficiency
 - Social marketing
- Request for USB members on the panel
 - USB members could talk about what they do, what they get out of the USB, the effects that USB has on some of BPA's programs and offerings, etc.
- A chairperson is needed for the workshop
 - Darrol Clark is considering it
- Last year the workshop lasted 1 ¾ days; is this an appropriate amount of time?
- Input requested on vendor reception:
 - BPA is trying to minimize effort of vendors, minimize cost.
 - Can they be placed in the adjacent hall?
 - Reception with the vendors? There is an issue with people having dinner plans.
 - Use vender suggestions from last year, if any.
 - Have the vendors continually available.
- Input requested in the 2009 "theme" for the workshop:
 - Last year's theme was "A Climate of Change"

Action Items

- Send names of speakers to Becky or Mira
- Send suggestions for the theme of the workshop
- Send suggestions for features (topics, schedules)
- Send suggestions for USB panel (possibly Dan Villalobos, Dawn Senger, Doris Abravanel)
- Send in suggestions for chairperson (possibly Darroll Clark)

PTR Users Group

Josh Warner and Grant Vincent

Feedback desired on:

- Would it be helpful to have a separate PTR Users Group or could the USB fill that role?
- What are the key goals of the users group?
- What should the expected time commitment be?
- Who should be represented if it is a separate group from the USB?

USB/BPA Discussion Points:

- Some USB members don't use the PTR regularly, so the group may need to be separate from the USB.
- The USB has a lot of other responsibilities, and are asked to be in a lot of work groups; a separate group may be necessary.
- BPA should consider paying for the PTR upgrades.
- Reporting aspects of the PTR are very hard to use, it is very difficult to sort and manipulate data for internal needs.
- A user group could do some training and then bring others up to speed.
- Question: Should the group have meetings, or conference calls? Answer: Not necessarily too many face to face, it could be a list serve, or regular conference calls.
- There could be some input offered during the meetings from BPA and Synergy, but the meetings would be led mainly by utility staff.
- There could be a Webcast twice a year, utilities could email what they need and want, and it could be covered in the Webcasts.
- PTR issues are not necessarily entering the data, but more in the area of reporting the data. It is difficult to pull the data and create reports. Response: You can actually import data in mass, there are several templates to upload deemed measures in bulk and also for uploading calculated measures. There is also an uploadable version of a generic credit calculator for custom projects (in testing phase).
- Question: Can you do that with residential measures if they are not the same reference number? Answer: Yes, go to account page and into shopping cart area and upload bulk data shopping carts.
- An option for user groups is to offer brown bag trainings to bring everyone up to speed on capabilities, features, etc. We need to do a better job of letting people know what features are available.
- The trainings have evolved to being one-on-one with Nora (more efficient).

- We need more people with Nora's expertise so that we are prepared for when she retires.
- BPA is working with Synergy to bring in additional support for Nora.
- There has been some customization of the PTR for specific utilities (like Seattle City Light). Instead of each utility paying for customization, why don't we do it for all utilities since many of us want the same thing? BPA could cover the costs, or utilities could have a cost share.
- It seems that most utilities only use the top layer of what is available on the PTR.
- In the recent past, a lot of time has been dedicated to enabling customers to report in; however as things improve, more time can be spent improving the options for reporting out.
- BPA is working on a long-term strategy for reporting. BPA is also working on getting an independent contractor on board who can give advice as to where we should head in the future. We are considering a redesign of the system if necessary.
- The user group might be good for bouncing ideas off of the independent contractor (mentioned above).
- What should be the size of the group? Should there be a super users group? A smaller group is better, but they could bring in other users.
- Nora might have a list of who calls her the most to help decide the group.
- EERs could also be a good source for deciding on the users group.
- The responsibilities of reporting are often delegated pretty far down, depending on the utility. There are different levels of users, all with different needs
- Kevin O'Sullivan and Grant Vincent are contacts for the PTR. Call (503) 230-3000 to contact the switchboard at BPA.

Conservation Rate Credit Option

Mira Vowles

Topics Addressed:

- How fast can a loan program be initiated and loans be executed?
- How can these loans be kept separate and tracked for accounting oversight?
- Are there any issues with Admin being allowed, based on the qualified measure reimbursement amount reported by 9/30/2009?
- Are there any issues with qualified measures reported by 9/30/2010 under this funding source, being applied at 75 percent towards the utility's High Water Mark?

USB/BPA Discussion Points

- The loans could be a bridging mechanism for CRC funds and carrying them forward to the next rate period.
- For utilities that have loans, how fast can a loan program be initiated and executed?
- For utilities that are limited in staff and experience, the process could be complicated and time consuming.
- If utilities use banks for the loans it should be easier.
- BPA could provide a package that the utility could follow to set up a loan.
- What tools would be helpful to include in a package?
- Utilities could use fees to offset the costs of administration.

- Loan programs require board action in virtually all cases.
- Most loan programs are residential, but there is interest in Commercial and Industrial (C&I). What about the issues with C&I?
- You must use “due diligence” in C&I.
- An E-Source Webinar said that there is more uptake with on-bill financing. Has anyone looked into on-bill financing?
- A lot of times the contractor may sell the loan program, because they provide the information.
- Utilities are required to report on loan money that comes back in.
- Un-loaned money cannot roll over.
- A brown bag is tentatively scheduled for August 14 on this topic.
- An APR calculator kit would be helpful (by law you must report the APR), and also a kit to help utilities set up the loan program.
- Energy Efficiency is still waiting for official approval for this program

Action Items: Follow up on planning Brown Bag
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Load Management

Pam Sporborg

Background on Load Management:

- Energy vs. Capacity: BPA’s system is facing capacity constraints due to regional load growth, fish operations mandated by the Biological Opinion and a significant amount of wind integration

Current Activities:

- BPA is conducting a strategic analysis of Demand Response potential in the region, looking at building supply curves and developing implementation options. We have contracted with the Brattle group to conduct this analysis. The outputs of this analysis will be fed into the Resource Program, which will be completed August 2009. Input from utilities and the USB will be solicited as a key component to this process.
- BPA is also looking at the applicability of using Demand Response as a wind integration tool. This could involve within-minute load balancing, using smart metering and smart appliances.

Projected FY 2009 activities:

- While a final decision on the level of Demand Response effort will not be made until after the Resource Program is complete, BPA will engage in a limited number of pilot projects and technology demonstrations in FY 2009. These projects will help BPA gain experience with running a Demand Response program, and get a more accurate idea about actual savings/curtailment from particular technologies.
- The current plan is to send out an RFP in October. *Thinking* that one of the key requirements for proposals will be buy-in/partnership at the local utility level. This is concern about how DR interfaces at the local level. Do not want to be BPA-centric.

USB/BPA Discussion Points

- There are no programs yet, but we are anticipating a need in the future

- Is this more commercial? Response: We are looking at all options to figure out which is the most cost effective. Best practices may also be a part of the consultant's work.
- Too early for a Brown Bag topic at this point
- Might be a good topic for the workshop
- Pam Sporborg is the point of contact for Load Management

USB Business

Mira Vowles

Members of USB rotating off in Oct: Larry Blaufus, Dawn Senger and Randy Thorn will be rotating off the USB in October. Please plan to contact new members and provide them with some background.

USB/BPA Discussion Points

- Try to maintain east-west and size balance on the board
- It was suggested that BPA try to get someone from EWEB for the USB
- Tom Schumacher is on the waiting list
- We want people with energy efficiency experience. Those who are new to the field might not be the right candidates
- What are thoughts regarding a mix of the board being based on size versus location?

Residential Lighting Report from NEEA:

In 2006, NEEA conducted random phone surveys of Northwest consumers, over sampling in the non-metropolitan areas. Please see attached handout in the USB agenda for more details.

Topics for next meeting, August 13, 2009

Long-term PTR strategy

Review our Web site

Residential lighting strategy going forward (looking at research)

CVR and the opportunity for conservation

Action Items

BPA will look into getting someone from EWEB for the USB

USB will send in suggestions for USB rotation

BPA to check on calculator for CVR savings

Krystal to request agenda topics for the next USB meeting

BPA to look into BPA qualified measures (what is the process for utilities to suggest measures for consideration?)